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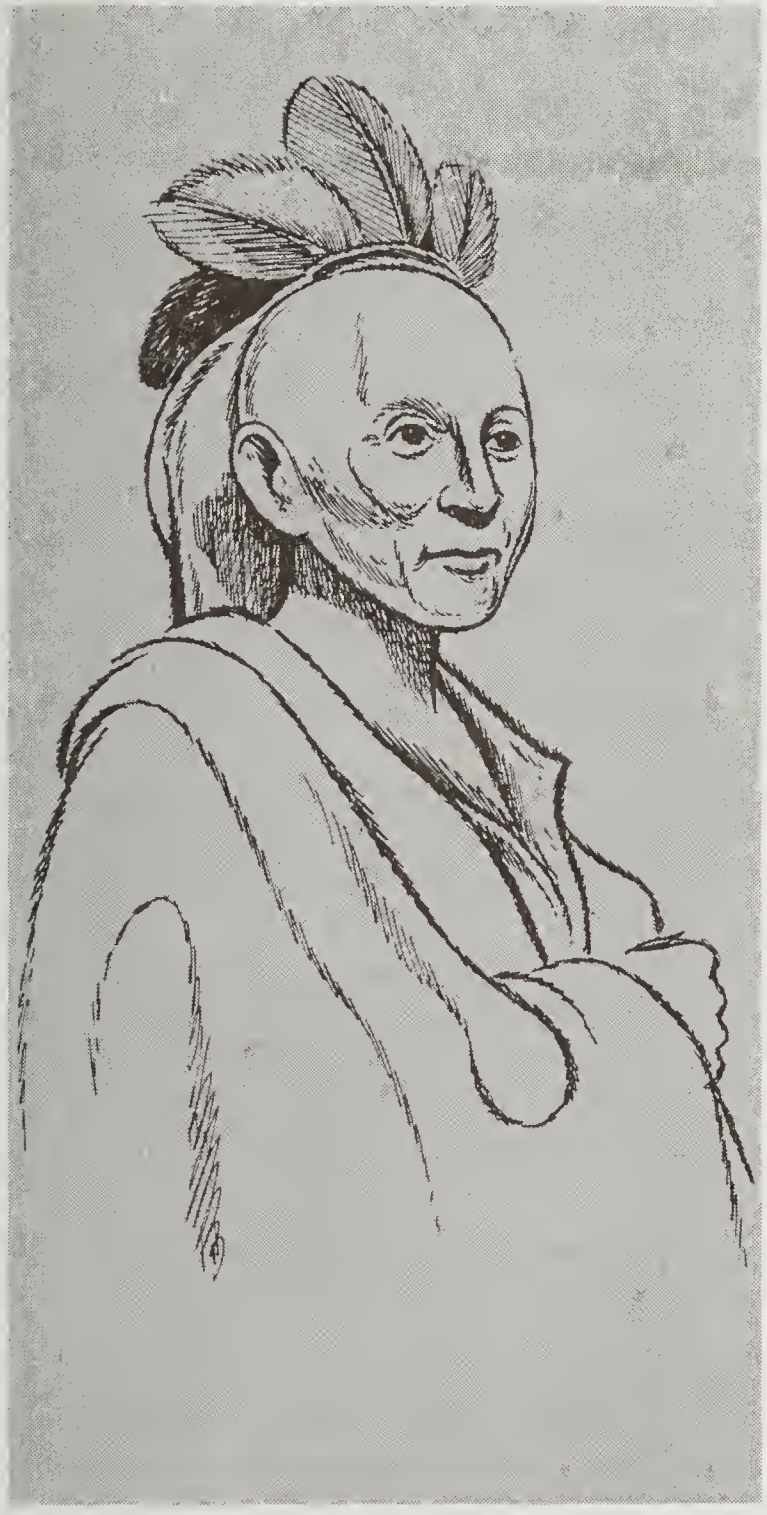
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STATE PARK



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THE PARK

Black Hawk State Park, in Rock Island County, is located along Route 5, east of Route 67. Bordering on the Rock River, this 207-acre tract is wooded and steeply rolling and contains a variety of plant and animal life. Although significant as the site of early Indian activity and nineteenth-century pioneer settlement, the area is most closely identified with the Sauk Nation and the warrior-leader whose name it bears—Black Hawk.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are three picnic areas with plenty of shade, tables, water, and stoves. Three shelter houses with fireplaces are available. Playground equipment is nearby.

Hiking: Four miles of marked hiking trails—with a rating of “moderate difficulty”—wind through the Park. Trail maps and an interpretive nature trail pamphlet are available at the Museum desk.

Cross-Country Skiing: Picnic areas and hiking trails on the south side of the park may be used for cross-country skiing.

Watch Tower Lodge: This structure was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. A public lounge is housed in the Lodge. Public restrooms, a pay telephone and vending facilities are also available.

Museum: The Hauberg Museum, named in honor of Dr. John Hauberg, was founded in 1939 to preserve local Indian heritage. It was renovated in 1976 and offers full-size winter and summer houses, dioramas depicting the day-to-day life of Sauk and Mesquakie people between 1750 and 1800, and displays of their material culture. Groups desiring to visit the museum are requested to call in advance: Phone 309/788-9536.

Prairie Restoration: A small area in the southwest corner of the park has been planted in native prairie plants. Various forbs (prairie wildflowers) and grasses may be seen from June through October.

No Camping is Allowed.

OLDEST RECREATION CENTER IN THE WEST

From the 1880's to the 1920's, the Watch Tower in what is now Black Hawk State Park was a recreation area that attracted visitors from miles around. Bailey Davenport built and became president and superintendent of the Rock Island and Milan Steam Railway and conceived the idea of developing the Watch Tower as a public pleasure spot. Starting in 1895, the Watch Tower was served and operated by the Tri-City Railway Company. Daily attendance

soared as high as 15,000 as people took the streetcar to Black Hawk for concerts, operas, vaudeville, open air theater, fireworks, bowling, target shooting, outdoor movies (projected on a canvas screen that often flapped in the breeze), balloon ascensions and rides on the Figure 8 Roller Coaster (its four loops making it the first of its kind west of Chicago) and the "Shoot the Chutes" toboggan slide. Invented in Rock Island, the toboggan slide at Black Hawk was built in 1898 and remained in operation until the 1920's. The popular attraction took riders at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour in a flat-bottomed boat with side runners that slid in a greased track. After shooting down the slope, the boat bounced across the waters of the Rock River.

A summer pavilion built in the 1880's was followed by a series of inns built where the present one stands today. Dining and dancing were popular at the old inns. After a visit to Black Hawk's Watch Tower General Sherman remarked that in his extensive travels he never met its equal.

By the 1920's, the recreation center had decreased in popularity. In 1927 Black Hawk was incorporated as a State Park.

A permanent pictorial display on the amusement park era is now housed in the museum.

COAL

Along the interpretive trail in Black Hawk's north woods, the visitor can spot remnants of the old coal mines. These mines were owned and operated by Bailey Davenport during the 1880's. Evidence is seen today in the mounds of waste tailings from the mines, and ground depressions where the shafts existed.

DICKSON (PIONEER) CEMETERY

In 1838 William Dickson laid out a cemetery that is now part of Black Hawk State Park. Many of the area's early settlers were buried here. Murderers and outlaws also lie beneath the sod. Paupers were buried one on top of another because of lack of space. Today, wooden crosses and broken headstones on the two-acre plot are surrounded by a split-rail fence and flowers and shrubs characteristic of the nineteenth century. The plot is located in the northwest area of the Park.

NATURE

The deciduous hardwood forest and the Rock River provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Nearly 175 species of birds can be observed during the year. Spring is a favorite time for observing the migrating species when tree leaves are not big enough to block the viewing. Dominant trees of the upland forest are the oaks. In addition, there is a variety of other hardwoods. Numerous wildflowers, shrubs, and vines grow

under their canopy. More than thirty wildflower species, including wild orchids (Showy Orchids), bloom in April and May.

The Black Hawk Forest, a dedicated Nature Preserve, has been identified as one of the least-disturbed forests of its kind in Illinois.

The prairie restoration offers a small view of the many species of grasses and flowers which once covered most of Illinois.

HISTORY

Paleo Indians first moved into the area 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. The area was inhabited by Indians



up to and including the Hopewell, who lived here about 2,000 years ago. Their village was located in the Park area and their burial mounds were built along the bluffs above the river. Unfortunately, no mounds can be found in the Park today.

Most recently this was the home and recreation area of the Sauk and Mesquakie Indian Nations, who began migrating here about 1730. For the next century Saukenuk, capital of the Sauk Nation, stood adjacent to the Park site. Saukenuk was one of the largest Indian centers in North America. The Sauk and the Mesquakie farmed the land along the river and relied upon the fur trade for their livelihood. At the height of their power they controlled parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and all of Iowa.

Saukenuk was the site of the westernmost battle of the Revolutionary War when, in 1780, the Americans destroyed the village because some of the Sauk had given military support to the British. In 1804, various chiefs of the tribe had ceded the village land to the United States. Although Black Hawk was not a chief, he was a famed Sauk Warrior and headed the pro-British element which refused to recognize the cession as legal. During the War of 1812, the pro-British remained here to defeat the Americans in two Mississippi River battles, one at Campbell's Island, the other at Credit Island.

White settlers began to move into the area in the late

1820's. In 1831, all Indians were forced across the Mississippi with the promise they would not return. In 1832, Black Hawk led fifteen hundred followers back into Illinois in an attempt to regain their cornfields. Following several sharp skirmishes, Black Hawk and his followers—men, women and children—were chased into the wilderness of southern Wisconsin and decisively defeated at the Battle of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to Black Hawk State Park without permission from the site manager. Groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be leashed. No hard liquor is allowed.

The Park is open year-round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of Park roads during the freezing or thawing periods, access to the Park is by foot only.

The area is for all to enjoy, so please help keep it clean. All vehicles must remain on existing roadways and parking lots. No plants, flowers, shrubs or trees may be removed or damaged. No ground fires are permitted.

For more details about Black Hawk State Park, contact Site Superintendent, Black Hawk State Park, Rock Island, Illinois 61201; phone 309/788-0177. For information on other Land and Historic Sites, write The Illinois Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Bird and Wildflower Walks: Experts lead public walks to observe birds and wildflowers on one Saturday each spring. No fee is charged.

Geology Outing: In October of each odd-numbered year, a Saturday public program is held to study geological formations in the Park. Devonian marine fossils embedded in limestone, plus Pennsylvanian sandstone and Pleistocene (Ice Age) loess are seen along the trails. No fee is charged.

Archeology Outing: In October of each even-numbered year, a Saturday public program is held to learn more about Indian history in and around the Park. Indian sites are visited. No fee is charged.

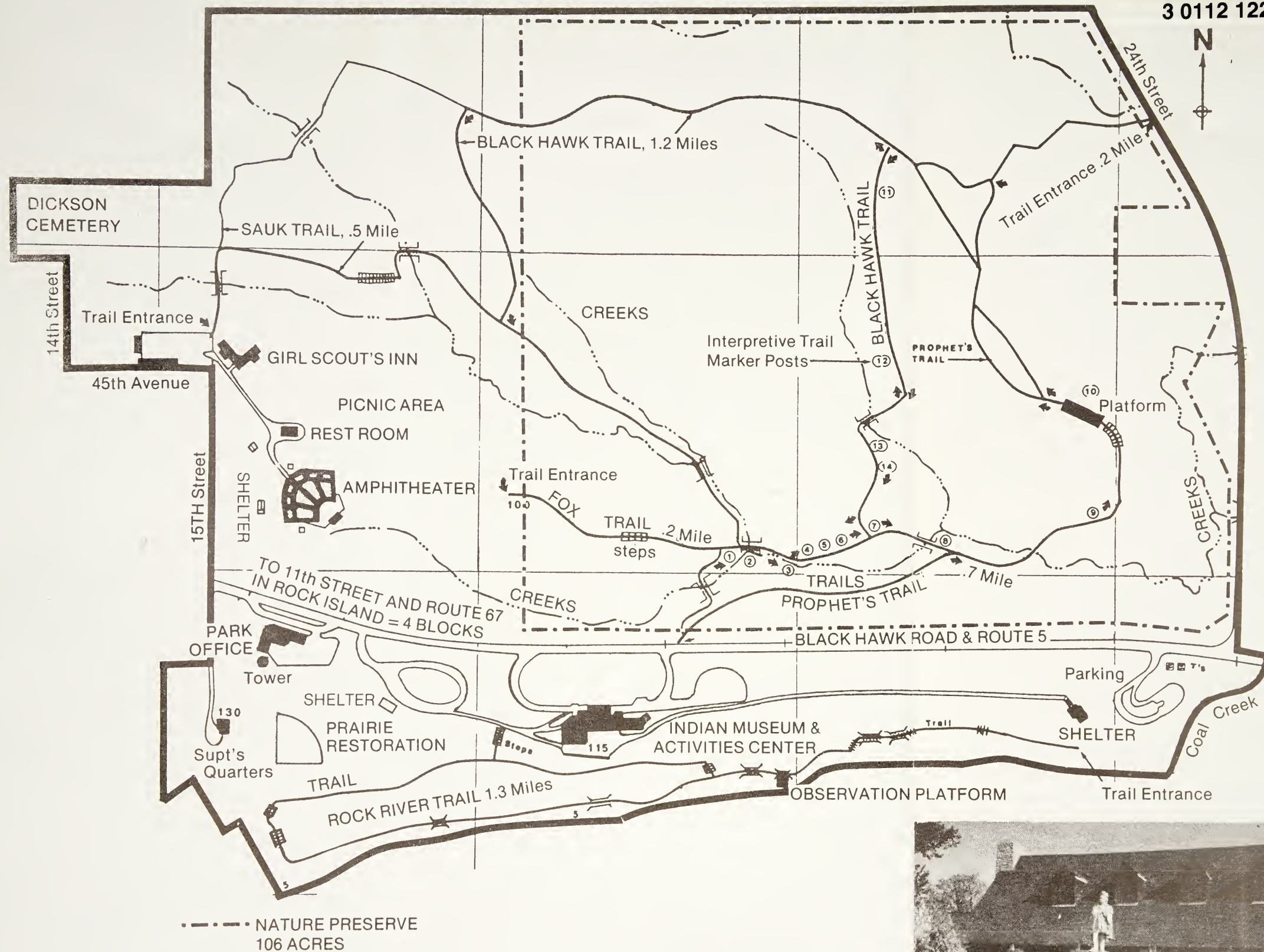
Prairie Outing: Each September, a Saturday public program on Illinois prairies is offered. Field trips to nearby prairie sites are included. No fee is charged.

Contact the Site Superintendent for information on these events, including their dates.





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A detailed map of the Coal Creek area. The map shows a trail route starting from a 'Trail Entrance' at the bottom, passing through a 'SHELTER' and 'Parking' area, and continuing north. Key landmarks include 'Coal Creek' at the bottom right, 'ROAD & ROUTE 5' running horizontally across the middle, and '24th Street' at the top. A 'Platform' is marked with a circled '10' near the center. A 'Trail Entrance .2 Mile' is indicated further north. A 'PROPHET'S RAIL' is shown on the left side. A north arrow is located in the top right corner. The map also shows various contour lines and a dashed line representing a boundary or road.

